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spot near the center, 5–15 mm. in diameter; sporodochia hypophyllous, minute, gelatinous, yellowish-amber and blackening, subspherical when moist ( $150\mu$ ) becoming disc-shaped or irregular when dry ( $60\text{--}100\mu$ ); sporophores branched; conidia hyaline, oblong,  $1 \times 3.5\text{--}4\mu$ .

While examining specimens of other apple leaf-spot fungi in the herbarium of the United States Department of Agriculture, I came across this same fungus on a few leaves among specimens determined as *Phyllosticta pirina* Sacc. and collected by M. B. Waite at White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., and A. R. Blakely at Springdale, N. C., in 1889.

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## REVIEWS

### **Grout's Mosses with Hand-Lens and Microscope\***

Part IV. of Mr. Grout's "Mosses with Hand-Lens and Microscope" equals the previously-issued parts in good type, excellent paper, and numerous, clear illustrations. More detailed explanations might well be given some of the full-page plates, remarks are too often included in the generic and specific descriptions, and the descriptions could be more readily compared if the same arrangement were regularly used; however, the "non-technical" character of the book as announced on the cover page is undoubtedly the author's justification for his treatment of the subject. Numerous short keys are given; these with the excellent illustrations should make the identification of our common mosses a very simple matter.

### **The Guide to Nature and to Nature Literature†**

"The Guide to Nature and to Nature Literature," mentioned in the last issue of *TORREYA*, began publication with the April number. It is an "Illustrated monthly magazine for adults, de-

\* Grout, A. J. Mosses with Hand-Lens and Microscope. Part IV. Pp. 247–318. pl. 56–75. figs. 134–195. Published by the author, Brooklyn, New York, 1908. \$1.25.

† The Guide to Nature and to Nature Literature. Magazine. Illustrated. Official organ of the Agassiz Association. Editor, Edward F. Bigelow, Stamford, Connecticut.

voted to common-place nature with uncommon interest." It is also the official organ of the Agassiz Association, "the oldest, most extensive and most efficient organization in the promotion of the love and knowledge of nature."

The lack of a table of contents is less keenly felt by reason of an ingenious system of general headings spread through the text at irregular intervals. There are eleven of these, one temporarily without material to fill it, and their diversified character speaks volumes for the future scope and usefulness of "The Guide." It is unnecessary to enter into the details of all these divisions, but a few deserve passing mention.

Under the caption, "The Outdoor World," is an article by Professor Earl Douglas on fossil hunting, and another on "Our Eastern Calla Lily." In the latter the propriety of coining this new common name for the well-known skunk cabbage may be questioned. The attempt to attach a name long associated with *Zante deschia* to *Spathyema foetida* is justly doomed to failure. For common names are not made in an editor's office. They are rather the product of long years of a popular tendency to attach definitive names to the better known plants and animals. Under "Domesticated Nature" there is an interesting article on the origin of the Easter egg and Easter rabbit custom. In a slightly similar vein are "A Tendril Soliloquy" and a group of "astonishing experiences" with foxes. The correspondents submitting the latter have done the editor a very perilous service, for the strain on the reader's credulity is great, and recent press discussion of such "astonishing experiences" has been exceedingly keen.

"The Camera" affords an illustrated article on "Interesting Cloud Effects" and also a good description of a home-made photomicrographic apparatus. The photographs under "Bird Haunts" seem to lack significance, since there is no visible sign of a bird or a bird's nest.

"The Twin Periodicals" is an editorial confession of faith and it is in this that we find what is to be the future scope and ideal of "The Guide." After a gentle criticism of two widely known magazines devoted to outdoor life in America, and the expres-

sion of a pious hope that "The Guide" will not follow their habit of "delineating a metropolitan wealth," we read the following: "It will not deal entirely nor frequently in 'glittering generalities,' although it hopes to sparkle sometimes, and at all times to glow steadily with the fire of nature's inspiration, fanned by the breezes that swing above the fields and toss the clouds across the sun. The sight of a leaf lying on a cluster of bluets in a grassy meadow will be more welcome, and will more thoroughly merit a full-page illustration, than will a thousand fur rugs of (*sic*) a roomful of priceless tapestries. It will be a guide to nature, not a sign-post to point out the useless things that unlimited wealth can buy. A description and picture of an invisible object as it appears under the microscope will give 'The Guide' greater satisfaction than the portraits of forty bulls of Bashan." Thus Mr. Edward F. Bigelow, editor.

The whole tone of the paper is one of enthusiastic love of nature, and this will almost atone for distressing shortcomings. The task of bridging the gulf between the natural scientist and the general reader is always difficult. There is the tendency on the one hand to write dry facts in a colorless style; on the other to dispense highly readable but dangerously colored "Nature Faking." It would be a delirium of optimism to expect "The Guide" to bridge successfully this gulf, for bigger and stronger efforts have failed. But an editorial enthusiasm that allows the publication of "astonishing experiences" with foxes will be nothing daunted by the failure of previous efforts. And it is a matter for congratulation that an editorial assurance which sees no very urgent necessity for apologies for this first issue, did not turn out something much worse.

There is doubtless room for a paper that will print nature items of "uncommon interest." And an editor who can improvise upon the theme of a climbing tendril is sure to please a certain class of readers. But neither of these facts would seem to furnish any very vigorous reason for the existence of "The Guide" as an interpreter of either the esthetic or scientific phases of nature work.

The magazine is a well-printed and illustrated sheet of thirty-two pages with the usual advertisements. NORMAN TAYLOR.